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Temple-Stuart Update

Number 2 - June 2003

Superfund Records Center

SITE: Temple Stuart

FEAK: 13.5



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Town of Templeton to remove friable asbestos and other hazardous substances from the former Temple-Stuart facility in Baldwinville. Below is an update on activities.

Recent Site Activities

EPA has completed work cleaning up friable asbestos contamination at the Temple-Stewart facility in Baldwinville, with assistance from the Town of Templeton and the MA DEP. This work began in August 2002.

In addition, EPA has been investigating the former landfill areas on the property and has confirmed the presence of elevated levels of PCBs in the landfill. Additional sampling done to support MA DEP's effort to fence the contaminated areas in and surrounding the landfill revealed that PCBs are also present in soil samples outside of the landfill area and on the Temple-Stuart property immediately adjacent to neighboring residential properties.

As a result of this information, EPA began sampling surface soils (soils in the first 0 - 6 inches) on a number of residential properties near the site, in order to determine if any PCB contamination is present in surface soils. To date, EPA has sampled 15 properties and expects to complete sampling on an additional 25 properties within the next three weeks. Sampling results are anticipated to be back in 4 weeks. Once the results have been received, EPA will discuss them one-on-one with individual homeowners.

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Activities Completed at the Site

To date, work crews have:

- Removed asbestos from the limited areas of the complex which were structurally safe.
- Demolished and disposed of portions of the building complex which were in an advanced state of deterioration and presented a risk of asbestos release.
- Collected and disposed of other hazardous materials found on site.
- Collected surface and subsurface samples from the suspect landfill areas.
- Collected surface soil samples from the areas adjacent to the landfill, and other suspect areas, working with MA DEP.

Open House

EPA Invites You to Stop by the
American Legion Hall
on Tuesday, July 8th

Anytime Between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.
to Meet the EPA and MA DEP Staff
who are Working on the Temple-
Stuart Site and to Ask any Questions
You Might Have About Ongoing
Activities at the Site

What are PCBs?

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a family of man-made chemicals that contain 209 different variations, or congeners. PCBs are typically found in the environment as mixtures of different congeners. There are no known natural sources of PCBs. PCBs are typically oily liquids, ranging from colorless to light yellow in color. They have no smell or taste. Because PCBs do not burn easily and are a good insulating material, PCBs have been widely used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment. Consumer products that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures, hydraulic fluids and electrical devices or appliances containing PCB capacitors made before PCB use was stopped.

The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the United States in 1977 because of evidence that PCBs build up in the environment and cause harmful effects.

Although PCBs are no longer manufactured, they are very persistent chemicals and once in the environment, do not break down easily. While they tend to remain attached to particles of soil and any process that moves soil can also move the attached PCB, PCBs are widely distributed throughout the environment and can be found at background levels in the outdoor air, on soil surfaces and in water.

For More Information

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